



## What the Almanac Says:

- *Best fishing days in April: the 5th through the 20th (when the moon is between new and full)*
- *April's temperatures will be about 6 degrees above average with average precipitation.*

## Seedlings Start the Season

### *It's Spring, it's Spring!*

Not just because the calendar told us so, but because the grass in the pasture is turning green and the seedlings in the starter area have come up beautifully. Right now, the grow lights are hovering over broccoli, cauliflower, eggplant, sweet pepper and tomato plants all just itching to get into the ground. They (and we) must be patient and wait for the warmer weather to stay. If you read our newsletter last month (read it on our website under the newsletter archives) you'll remember we are making our first attempt at eggplant this year. Karin's blog on the website talked about the issues involved with these beauties and it looks like we're moving along quite nicely. Keep your fingers crossed.

The time is also right for the cool weather veggies—lettuce, green onions, radishes, spinach, and more—

to go directly into the planting areas outside. May's harvests will be light and leafy with plenty of options for salads and sides.

### *CSA Shares sold out*

Thank you to everyone who signed up for our 2008 CSA program. We are still getting emails from folks hoping to sign up and have started a waiting list. For those who didn't secure a spot, we are trying hard to make sure we've got plenty to bring to market each week so everyone can share in the harvest.

For those who've reserved a spot, please remember final payments are due May 15th.

### *New additions to our poultry selections*

Most of you know we offered a CSA meat program this year with a combo of beef, pork and chicken. We plan to have these

meats available at market and have chicken available most of the year. Now, we've added duck to our repertoire and will be taking pre-orders for holiday turkey and goose shortly. We raise these fowl the same way we do our chickens—free-range with access to all the natural foods they want to eat. Now, if we could just convince the coyotes that our birds aren't such a tasty treat!



*We raise Pekin ducks, the most common duck used for meat.*

We will be posting ordering information for duck and pre-orders for turkey and goose soon on the Local Orders page of our website.

## Paper or Plastic? How about neither?

We know you've heard it before. Plastic bags create a huge amount of waste for the short time they are used. Paper bags biodegrade, but use a lot of trees. About 12 million barrels of oil and 14 million trees go into producing these bags each year. Many countries have banned their use. But you have to get the groceries home somehow, right? How about reusable bags?

There are many options on the market now for reusable grocery bags, from small, foldable ones to ones that rival your favorite designer bag.

Experts say it takes 21 days to form a habit, good or bad. How do you get in the habit of using reusable bags? First, be sure keep your bags in your car so you have them available even during a quick stop. Then, make the last thing you do when unloading your groceries be put the bags back in the

car. If you have kids, tell them to remind you to bring the bags when you go to the store or farmer's market (kids are more than happy to remind you to do something for a change!)

NV Ranch understands that many people have not started to use these bags. We will be offering a variety of bags for sale at each Farmer's Market we attend this year for the convenience of our customers. The bags will cost from just a few dollars and up. If you are a CSA member, email us if you are interested in having your shares delivered in these bags.

For those customers not interested in buying these bags, we will be recycling plastic grocery bags to be used for purchases at Farmer's Market and recycled bags and boxes for CSA deliveries.